

**CHAPTER NO. 369**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 453**

**By Representatives McDonald, Bone, Davidson, Fowlkes, Hood, Arriola, David Davis, Montgomery, Winningham, Walker**

**Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 491**

By Senators Haynes, Burks, Atchley, Blackburn, Burchett, Carter, Clabough, Cohen, Cooper, Crowe, Crutchfield, Davis, Dixon, Elsea, Ford, Graves, Harper, Haun, Henry, Herron, Kurita, Kyle, Leatherwood, McNally, Miller, Person, Ramsey, Rochelle, Springer, Williams, Womack  
Mr. Speaker Wilder

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-1007, relative to character education.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee recognizes that local education agencies should have available effective tools to convey character education to students of all ages in their community; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly passed legislation in 1985 which provided character education as an aid to ensure students become good citizens; and

WHEREAS, recent disruptions in the classroom may be attributed to behavioral issues; and

WHEREAS, concern exists that the current character education statute is not being meaningfully utilized; now, therefore,

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:**

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-1007, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and substituting instead the following new section:

(a) The course of instruction in all public schools shall include character education to help each student develop positive values and improve student conduct as students learn to act in harmony with their positive values and learn to become good citizens in their school, community, and society.

(b)(1) The State Department of Education shall provide the appropriate method of instruction in grades K through twelve (12), in conformity with the elementary school curriculum provided for in subsection (c).

(2) Local Boards of Education may implement additional courses and materials in character education at their discretion.

(c)(1) Each local education agency shall provide the character education curriculum set forth in the curriculum provided by the Tennessee State Department of Education, or a comparable program approved by the State Department of Education.

(d) The Tennessee State Department of Education shall annually appear before the Joint Education Oversight Committee, to report the following:

(1) The number of schools in which character education was an integral part of the curriculum in the most recent academic year.

(2) The number of students receiving character education in the most recent academic year.

(3) A sample teaching method of character education used in the most recent academic year.

(4) A summary of the effectiveness of such teaching methods.

(5) Human resource agencies, created pursuant to Title 13, Chapter 26, may serve as the service delivery system for the character education program.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999, the public welfare requiring it.

**PASSED: May 27, 1999**

  
JIMMY RAIFEH, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

  
JOHN S. WILDER  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

**APPROVED this 14th day of June 1999**

  
DON SUNDQUIST, GOVERNOR